

enclose dark reddish patches. The lower chin is tipped with black and the throat mottled. The circular marks on the mid dorsal line may or may not run together, though in the adult, they may remain separate.

The young ones move very sluggishly and drink milk when offered, as soon as they have cast off the skin.

CENTRAL COLLEGE, BANGALORE,
19th June 1917.

C. R. NARAYAN RAO,
Professor of Zoology.

No. XIV.—EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE SAW SCALED VIPER
(*ECHIS CARINATA*).

Whilst our men were digging on the Mohmand blockade line in December, we got four *Echis carinata* in one mound and an earth snake and what looked like a buff-striped keel-back.

The previous day we got three *Echis*. Several were killed daily, so they are very numerous near Shabkadr. I believe we told you of the 31 inch *Echis carinata* killed by Major Rennick near Mascat in 1915? It was seen and measured by several of us.

NOWSHERA, N. W. F. P.,
18th February 1917.

F. F. MAJOR, LT.-COL.,
95th Russell's Infantry.

No. XV.—NOTES ON AN INTERESTING SPECIMEN OF THE
SEA SNAKE (*HYDROPHIS CÆRULESCENS*).

On the 2nd June 1917, I obtained from the fishing nets at Colaba a specimen of this snake which proved to be a gravid female. It was 2 feet 4 inches in length of which the tail accounted for $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The lepidosis is typical. The costals numbered 40 at a point, 2 headlengths behind the head, 49 in mid body, and 43 at a point 2 headlengths before the anus. The ventrals number 316. As is usual in this species the parietals did not find contact with the postoculars on either side.

The chief interest attaching to the specimen was the retention in the abdomen of a withered foetus some 4 inches long in the posterior ovary. This contained in the usual sac, was intimately adherent to the walls from which I had much difficulty in separating it. The folds of the foetus were also adherent, and the young embryo in a state of degeneration, with both cephalic and caudal extremities maldeveloped. The anterior ovary contained 3 fertilised ova about half an inch or more in length.

It seems clear that the withered foetus was a product of last year's conception, and that it had died, and been retained in the abdomen where it was undergoing degeneration. The eggs were obviously the result of this year's mating.

BOMBAY, 4th June 1917.

F. WALL, LIEUT.-COL., I.M.S.

No. XVI.—A LARGE CARP FROM THE EUPHRATES RIVER.

I am sending the Museum by means of a Captain of one of the ships that call here a skin of a fish caught in the Euphrates at Hakika.

This fish was 215 lbs. in weight, 6'-4" long and 3'-10" in girth.

It was speared by an Arab while lying at the bottom of the river about the month of September last year. It is the large mouthed, silver-coloured fish which we usually call the "Euphrates Salmon." It has two barbels on